INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State

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RUQVHN/AMEMBASSY NICOSIA 17
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C O N F I D E N T I A L JULY 15

PARIS FOR JAMES AND BURNS

USDOCOSOUTH FOR BURRIS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY ug DATE 6 MAY 1982

TODAY FINDS CENTER UNION DEFINITELY SPLIT INTO TWO CAMPS:

(1) ONE INCLUDES FORMER PRIMIN PAPANDREOU, ANDREAS PAPANDREOU, AND MOST OF MINISTERS IN HIS CABINET; (2) ATHANASSIADES-NOVAS, COSTOPOULOS, TOUMBAS, AND POSSIBLY MITSOTAKIS, BAKATSELOS, PAPASPYROU AND ALLAMANIS. MELAS MAY ALSO JOIN CABINET, BUT NEW PRIMIN IS OBVIOUSLY HAVING DIFFICULTIES FINDING CU MEMBERS READY TO JOIN WHAT PAPANDREOU HAS CALLED "TRAITOROUS CAUSE." LATEST CAS REPORT INDICATES THAT MANY CU DEPUTIES ARE REPORTEDLY

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RECEIVING TELEGRAMS AND CALLS FROM THEIR CONSTITUENCIES PROTESTING NOVAS APPOINTMENT AND URGING THEM TO REMAIN LOYAL TO PAPANDREOU.

AS TO PRESS, INFLUENTIAL VIMA-NEA COMBINE PLUS ETHNOS AND PRO-CENTER UNION MAKEDONIA IN THESSALONIKI, AND, OF COURSE, AVGHI, STAND FIRMLY WITH THOSE CALLING NOVAS "THE TRAITOR." ALTHOUGH ELEFTHERIA SHOWS NO GREAT ENTHUSIASM FOR NOVAS, IT DISAGREES WITH PAPANDREOU THAT HE IS A "TRAITOR." ERE PRESS STANDS BEHIND THE NEW PRIMIN AND INDIRECTLY THE PALACE.

IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT KING WAS FIRMLY CONVINCED THAT HE HAD TO TAKE BOLD MOVE TO REMOVE PAPANDREOU, AND PARTICULARLY HIS SON ANDREAS, IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP THE ARMED FORCES COMPLETELY LOYAL TO HIM. THIS VIEW WAS CLEARLY EXPRESSED BY

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KING TO COSTOPOULOS, DESPITE LATTER'S WARNING OF CONSEQUENCES OF OUSTING POPULAR PRIMIN, THUS SPLITTING CU AND PUSHING HIM TO LEFT. IT WOULD ALSO APPEAR THAT KING, THROUGH HOIDAS, HAD PROBABLY SOUNDED OUT PRESIDENT OF PARLIAMENT FEW DAYS AGO AS TO WHETHER HE WOULD HEAD A NEW CENTER UNION GOVERNMENT. FACT THAT HE WAS WAITING IN WINGS AT PALACE LAST NIGHT NOW STICKS IN THE CRAW OF FORMER PRIMIN PAPANDREOU AND

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ABRUPTNESS WITH WHICH KING PROCEEDED TO APPOINT NOVAS PRIMIN AND SWEAR IN COSTOPOULOS AND ADMIRAL TOUMBAS LENDS CREDENCE TO IMAGE BEING CREATED BY LEFT (AND PRO-PAPANDREOU ELEMENTS) THAT THIS WAS A FORM OF "COUP." KING UNDOUBTEDLY COUNTS HEAVILY ON GENERAL BITTERNESS IN CU CIRCLES TOWARDS ANDREAS PAPANDREOU AND BASES HIS ESTIMATE THAT HE CAN SPLIT THE PARTY LARGELY ON THIS FACTOR.

WHETHER KING WEIGHED SUFFICIENTLY SERIOUS TROUBLE WHICH ANDREAS PAPANDREOU PARTICULARLY AND THE LEFT CAN STIR UP AT THIS TIME IS MOOT QUESTION. ALTHOUGH GEORGE PAPANDREOU HAS STATED THAT HE WILL CARRY ON A NEW "UNRELENTING STRAGGLE" PEACEFULLY, THIS WILL PROBABLY NOT INHIBIT ANDREAS FROM LINKING HIS CAUSE WITH THAT OF LEFT AND GOING TO THE STREETS FOR SUPPORT. AS ANDREAS PAPANDREOU TOLD ME JULY 13 (EMBASSY A748), HE FORESAW A VIOLENT POPULAR REACTION TO ANY OTHER CU GOVERNMENT BASED ON PRESENT PARLIAMENT, AND THREATENED THE POSSIBILITY OF A GENERAL STRIKE.

ALTHOUGH IT IS EARLY MAKE PREDICTIONS, THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DOUBT WHETHER ATHANASSIADES-NOVAS CAN MUSTER NECESSARY NUMBER OF CU VOTES COUPLED WITH ERE AND PROGRESSIVE PARTY SUPPORT, TO WIN CONFIDENCE VOTE WITHIN CONSTITUTIONAL LIMIT OF FIFTEEN DAYS.

GP-3. ANSCHUETZ